

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02024 101915 Z

73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

TRSE-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /087 W

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R 101835 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4270

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJ: MORENO REBUTS LETELIER

REF: SANTIAGO 1981

1. IN WHAT HAS EARMARKS OF ONE OF THOSE RUNNING PRESS POLEMICS SO DEAR TO CHILEAN PUBLIC FIGURES, PDC SENATOR RAFAEL MORENO ISSUED STATEMENT MAY 9 RESPONDING TO AMB TO US ORLANDO LETELIER'S RATHER SELF- RIGHTEOUS DENIAL (REF) OF MORENO'S EARLIER CHARGE THAT THROUGH CONTACTS IN US PRESS LETELIER HAD ENGAGED IN " ORCHESTRATION" OF CAMPAIGN TO BESMIRCH PDC AND EX- PRES FREI. MORENO REPEATED CHARGE, THIS TIME ALLUDING TO LETELIER'S SHEPHERDING OF UP NEWSMEN WHO VISITED US IN WAKE OF 1972 ANDERSON PAPERS EXPOSE. HE ALSO INSINUATED THAT WASHINGTON POST'S " FALSE COMMENTARIES" IN 1972 HAD AMBASSADORIAL INSPIRATION. HARSH ATTACK CLOSED WITH SAR- CASTIC REFERENCES TO LETELIER'S " THIRTEEN YEARS ON WASHINGTON COCKTAIL CIRCUIT" AND ALLEGATION THAT LETELIER IN 1970 MADE NO SECRET IN WASHINGTON OF PRO- ALESSANDRI (SIC) SYMPATHIES.

2. COMMENT. FACT THE AGGRESSIVE AND AMBITIOUS MORENO HAS DRAWN A BEAD ON HIM DOES NOT PROMISE TO MAKE LETELIER'S TASK AS FOREIGN MINISTER ANY EASIER.

DAVIS

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 02024 101915 Z

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA02024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730541/aaaaitqq.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 SANTIAGO 1981
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980127
Subject: MORENO REBUTS LETELIER
TAGS: PINT, CI, PINT
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005